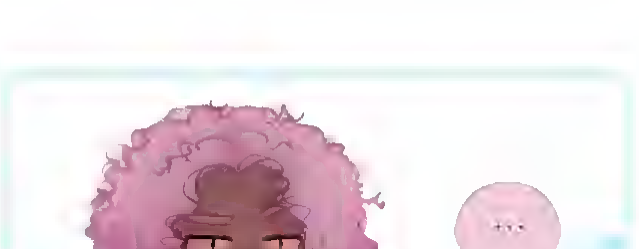
BUT I'M NOT THE TYPE OF PERSON WHO DOES EXTRAORDINARY THINGS.
I'M JUST... ORDINARY.

AND THE ORDINARY THING I WANT MOST RIGHT NOW
IS TO BE HERE, ON EARTH, WITH THE PEOPLE WHO MATTER.

ALWAYS HUMAN

67 - I can't let her feel that way



HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT?
TAKE IT BACK!
uh, I take it back?
AND DON'T JUST AGREE WITH ME TO BE POLITE!

SUNATI, YOU CAN AND YOU WILL DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS!
YOU- YOU...

ugh that's weird
THE NEXT TIME WE TALK WE'RE USING VR BEDS SO I CAN POKE YOU PROPERLY.
yes ma'am

SO WHAT DOES AUSTEN HAVE TO SAY ABOUT ALL THIS?
BECAUSE IF SHE SAID ANYTHING OTHER THAN:
'WOW SUNATI THAT'S AMAZING AND YOU'RE AMAZING AND I FULLY SUPPORT YOUR DREAMS'

YOU SHOULD BREAK UP WITH HER.
WHAT? NO! NONONONO.

I- UH-

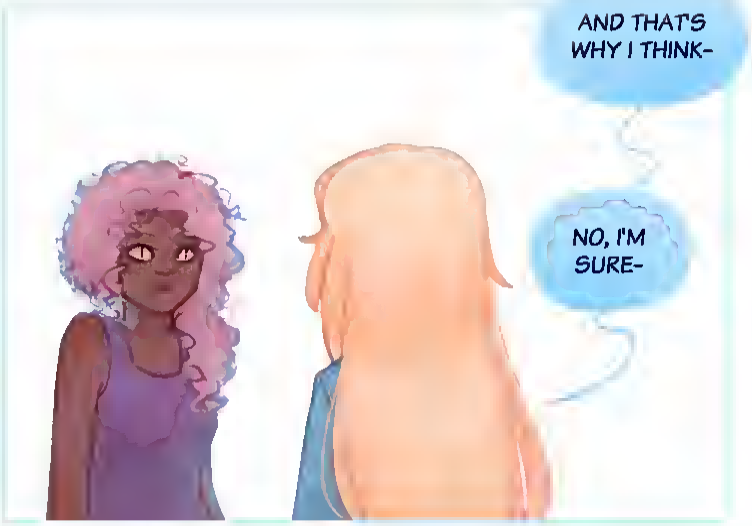
IHAVEN'T TOLDHERYET?

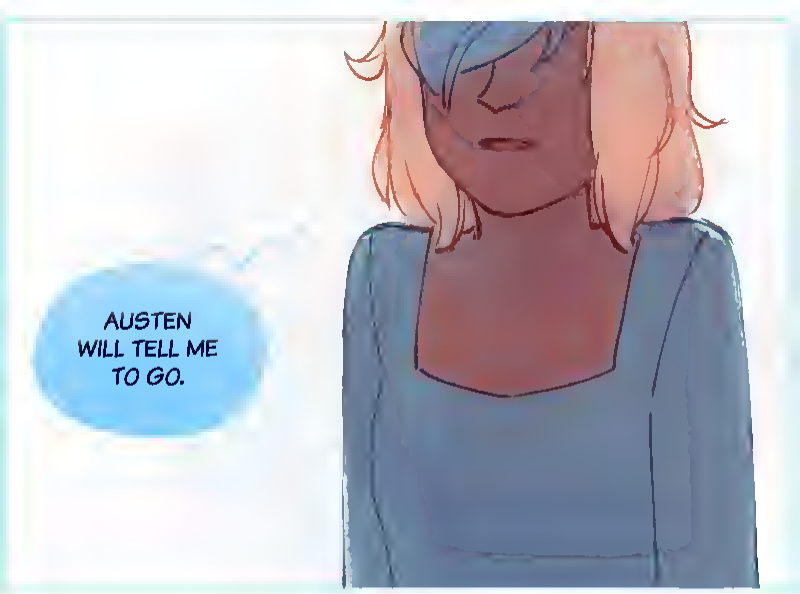
WHY ON EARTH HAVEN'T YOU-

WAIT WAIT, I HAVE A REASON! IT'S A GOOD REASON!

AUSTEN CAN'T GO TO SPACE.

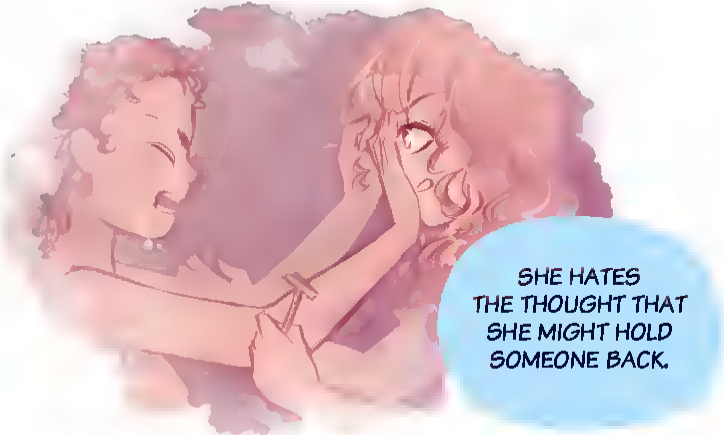
WELL, I THINK SHE CAN GET INTO ORBIT FINE, SO MAYBE SHE CAN GO TO A ZERO-G HOTEL?
BUT SHE CAN'T GO ANY FURTHER.
LONG DISTANCE SPACE FLIGHTS REQUIRE MASSIVE ACCELERATION.
THE HUMAN BODY CAN'T HANDLE THAT WITHOUT MODS.


AND THAT'S WHY I THINK-
NO, I'M SURE-



SHE'LL DEFINITELY WANT ME TO MAKE THE MOST OF THIS CHANCE.

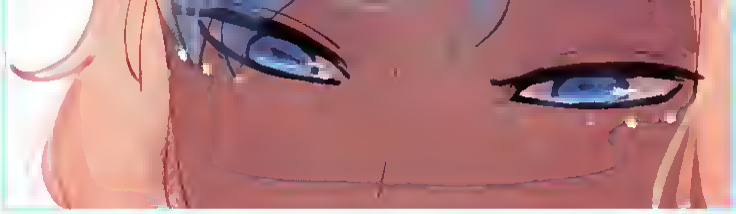
AUSTEN REFUSES TO LET OTHERS LIMIT THEMSELVES BECAUSE OF HER.
I COULDN'T ASK MY FAMILY TO LIVE LIKE NATURALISTS FOR ME,
THEY'D BE EXPECTED TO STOP USING MODS.


SHE HATES
THE THOUGHT THAT
SHE MIGHT HOLD
SOMEONE BACK.

SO... SUPPOSE I TALK TO AUSTEN ABOUT ENCELADUS-

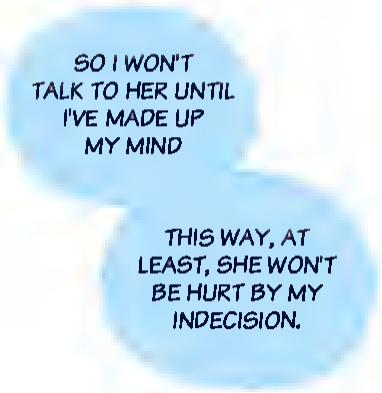
SUPPOSE I SHARE ALL MY HOPES AND FEARS WITH HER-

WHAT IF I THEN DECIDE NOT TO GO?



SHE'LL FEEL LIKE SHE'S HOLDING ME BACK.

AND I CAN'T LET HER FEEL THAT WAY.
I JUST CAN'T.


SO I WON'T TALK TO HER UNTIL I'VE MADE UP MY MIND
THIS WAY, AT LEAST, SHE WON'T BE HURT BY MY INDECISION.

MAYBE I CAN JUST CASUALLY MENTION THAT I GOT A JOB OFFER BUT IT SEEMED TOO STRESSFUL SO I TURNED IT DOWN?

that wouldn't even be a lie

THEN SHE CAN'T POSSIBLY FEEL LIKE IT'S HER FAULT, RIGHT?

OH, AND YOU CAN'T TALK TO AUSTEN BEHIND MY BACK!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT I WOULD NEVER-
OH YES YOU WOULD, YOU WERE THINKING ABOUT IT, I CAN TELL.

RAE, PLEASE DON'T TELL AUSTEN.

...

REMEMBER THE LAST TIME YOU KEPT A SECRET FROM YOUR GIRLFRIEND BECAUSE YOU DIDN'T WANT TO HURT HER?

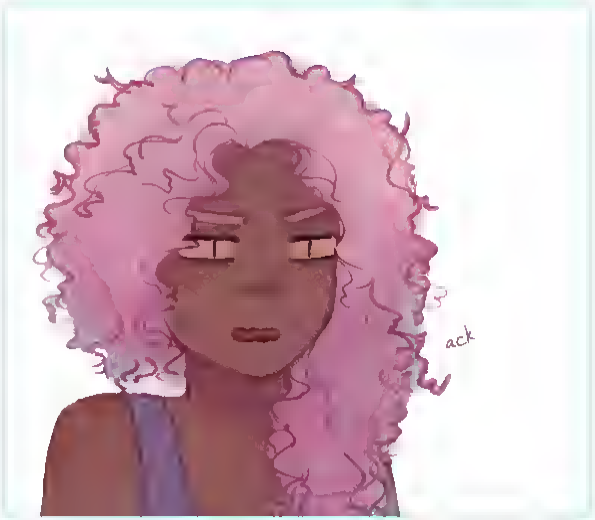
IT ALL BLEW UP IN YOUR FACE.

I REMEMBER.

BUT I DON'T WANT AUSTEN TO BLAME HERSELF FOR A CHOICE I MAKE.
IT'S MUCH BETTER IF SHE GETS ANGRY AT ME INSTEAD.

SO PROMISE ME YOU WON'T TELL HER.
SUNATI, I DON'T CARE ABOUT HURTING AUSTEN'S FEELINGS.
I CARE ABOUT YOU MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE.
HOW CAN YOU DO THAT WITHOUT TALKING TO HER?
sure, it's your choice but she's definitely a part of this

RAE
PLEEEEAASE


ack

OKAY, OKAY
FINE.
curse your puppy-
dog eyes

I PROMISE NOT TO TELL AUSTEN ABOUT ENCELADUS.

BECAUSE I HAVE TO GET READY FOR WORK AND DON'T HAVE TIME TO ARGUE.

HAPPY?

THANK YOU.

I WILL, HOWEVER, CALL YOUR MUM DURING MY LUNCH BREAK SO WE CAN CONSPIRE.

WAIT
WHAT?
GOOD NIGHT
SUNATI.

IF YOU NEED TO TALK THEN I WANT TO LISTEN.
IF YOU NEED A HAND THEN I WANT YOU TO USE MINE.

CAN YOU PROMISE ME THIS?
NO MORE SECRETS.

AUSTEN, I'M SO SORRY

BUT I CAN'T.

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